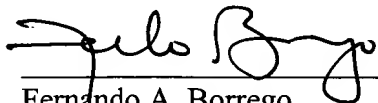


application. The above amendments place the claims in better condition for examination on the merits. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 5, 2000



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